New Orleans States-Item 14 July 1972

Section G Judgeship Race Shaping Up as Lively Contest

By FERREL GUILLORY

It's the only contest remaining in the Criminal District Court election, but there are already indications that the race for Section G will be a heated one.

In a joint appearance yesterday before the Criminal Courts Bar Association, two challengers hurled a variety of charges against the incumbent.

Salvatore Panzeca accused Judge Frank J. Shea of looking at inadmissable evidence in misdemeanor cases in which he must make a judgment, and of threatening felony defendants with maximum penalities for not entering a plea to avoid a trial.

EDWARD M. BALDWIN charged Judge Shea has only just begun to use the release on recognizance program and is unfair in setting bails. When requesting bond for a client, said Baldwin, "I don't waste the nickel to call the incumbent."

Both Panzeca and Baldwin said Shea is more interested in getting cases over with quickly than in seeing that justice is done.

"The incumbent is dedicated to the clock and not to justice," said Panzeca.

Judge Shea countered that he seldom sees attorneys Panzeca and Baldwin in his court, hinted that their opposition may be based on past rulings he has made not favorable to them, and contended that he has conducted more trials in the last nine years than any other section of the court.

"I probably haven't been threatening people if I've tried so many people," he said.

JUDGE SHEA said he assisted in the creation of the position of court magistrate, in the jury pool system, in establishing the indigent defender office, and in setting up a program for rehabilitation of marijuana users.

Originally, there were to be three other contests for Criminal District court, but challengers dropped out, leaving Judges Matthew S. Braniff, Jerome Winsberg and Oliver P. Schulingkamp unopposed.

Some candidates for two-year and eight-year seats on the state Supreme Court also spoke.

William V. Redmann, now a judge on the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeal, vying for a two-year term on the high court, said he does not want "misunderstood technicalities" standing in the way of justice. "Beating a confession out of a man is not a technicality," he declared.

One of his opponents, attorney Leon Sarpy, recounted his experience in serving on the civil service board, in teaching law school, in raising money through United Fund in serving on a panel working on law code revision as his qualifications for the judgeship. "All I ask you to do is to put my record next to that of my three opponents," he said.

FIVE CANDIDATES for the eight-year seat showed up.

District Attorney Jim Garrison praised defense lawyers for protecting the rights of individuals. In all of his recent notable court battles, he added, "I have refused to step back and compromise" on principles.

Joseph R. Bossetta, now a Municipal Court judge, said he is in favor of having a death penalty, is against busing of school children, is opposed to 100 per cent property tax assessment and is worried that the "pendulum (is) swinging too far" in protecting criminals.

Judge Walter Marcus Jr., currently serving in Civil District Court, pledged to use the Supreme Court powers to oversee the operations of the state's courts. He said he would work "to improve and change the system where necessary to make the system work."

Fourth Circuit Court of Appeal Judge Julian Samuel offered his experience as both a criminal and civil attorney, as an assistant district attorney, as a district court judge and as an appeals court judge as an indication of his knowledge and awareness of the problems involved in the Supreme Court.

Earl J. Amadee, a local attorney, carrying a Bible with him to the podium, called its contents the "initial law." He also said: "Until four or five years ago, blacks weren't elected to anything, so don't hold the lack of judicial experience against me."

Judges Certified As Candidates

The Orleans Parish Democratic Executive Committee today certified incumbent Criminal District Court Judges Matthew S. Braniff, Jerome M. Winsberg and Oliver P. Schulingkamp as nominees for the Aug. 19 primary election.

Only Braniff is expected to have Republican opposition in the general election. The others are unopposed.

The certifications followed the withdrawals of Robert F. Collins, who was to have opposed Braniff; James L. Alcock, who was slated to battle Judge Winsberg; and John P. Dowling, who was scheduled to run against Judge Schulingkamp.